



Advent Conspiracy 2021 Part 2: Spend Less

Luke 2:1-3, Acts 4:12, Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1

1. What was most memorable, challenging, or encouraging from the message this week?
2. Share about a time when you didn't get what you wanted for Christmas. How did you respond to the disappointment?
3. Now share about a time when you got exactly what you wanted. How long were you satisfied with the gift? What can we learn from these experiences?
4. In describing how people often approach Christmas, Tim said, "If a little is good, then more is better, and a lot is the best." In what ways are we drawn into this kind of thinking?
5. Christmas has come to be known as a season of excess. In what ways does this season become that for you? Food? Drink? A stuffed schedule? Overspending? How do you feel after the holiday is over?
6. What does your approach to gift-giving at Christmas teach your kids about the gift of Jesus? What does it teach them about contentment?
7. Read James 5:1-6. What are some of the specific sins that James condemns in this passage? What are some of the consequences that will come to those who put their trust in wealth and riches?
8. More than just an invitation to say "no" to overspending and mindless gifts, Advent Conspiracy is saying "yes" to a new way of celebrating Christmas. How will you and your family resist the empire of more this year and free up your time and money to spend in better ways?

MOVING FORWARD

Perhaps you come to the end of the Christmas season feeling a sense of frustration or even defeat. The struggle against wanting more and more is very real indeed. The unrealistic expectations we place on things that rust and fall apart is a truth that each of us must face. But there's a better way, a more fulfilling way, a way that worships Jesus and fulfills us. That starts with spending less.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

Isaiah 55:2